IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 22, 23, and 31, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for exchanging information between entities on a network comprising:

identifying a plurality of data elements capable of being instantiated by each of a plurality of applications on the network and to which global annotations may be anchored, wherein each global annotation for a given data element is stored by an annotation system independently from a representation of the given data element used by each of the plurality of software applications to represent the given data element, and wherein the plurality of data elements to which global annotations can be anchored are identified from a registry maintained by the annotation system;

providing one or more interfaces for creating global annotations for an instance of one of the identified data elements instantiated by a first application in a first document, wherein a first one of the interfaces for creating global annotations is accessible from the first application, and wherein the interface is configured to capture both annotation content supplied when a global annotation is created for the instance of the identified data element and a context of the instance of the identified data element, wherein the context identifies how the first data element is used within the first document; and

providing one or more interfaces for viewing, from each of the plurality of applications, the global annotations, wherein a first one of the interfaces for viewing the global annotations is accessible from a second application capable of instantiating the first data element in a second document using a representation of the data element different than the representation of the first data element in the first document, and wherein the global annotation created for the first data element, when viewed, presents the annotation content and the context identifying how the first data element is used in the first document.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more interfaces for creating global annotations comprises at least one application for creating graphical user interfaces.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second applications comprise a data analysis application.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second applications comprise a text editor.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the one or more interfaces for viewing, from at least the second application, global annotations created from the first application comprises:

parsing data loaded by the second application into discrete data elements; and

searching the registry for entries corresponding to the discrete data elements.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing one or more interfaces for creating global annotations anchored to selected annotatable data elements from at least the first application comprises:

selecting an annotation structure associated with a selected annotatable data element; and

generating a graphical user interface based on the selected annotation structure.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the context identifying how the first data element is used in the first document is presented by providing a link, as part of the interfaces for viewing the global annotation, to the first document.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the plurality of data elements comprises identifying categories of data elements to which global annotations may be anchored.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for creating global annotations, comprising:

loading a first set of data with a first application;

identifying a plurality of data elements contained in the first set of data to which global annotations can be anchored, wherein each global annotation for a given data element, of the plurality, is stored by an annotation system independently from a representation of the given data element used by each of a plurality of software applications to represent the given data element, and wherein the plurality of data elements to which global annotations can be anchored are identified from a registry maintained by the annotation system;

providing a first interface allowing a user to create a global annotation for a selected one of the identified data elements, wherein the first interface is configured to capture both annotation content supplied when a global annotation is created for the instance of the selected data element and a context of the instance of the selected data element, wherein the context identifies how the selected data element is used within the first set of data;

providing a second interface allowing the user to view the global annotation from within a second application loading a second set of data containing the selected data element for which the global annotation was created, and wherein the global annotation created for the selected data element, when viewed, presents the annotation content and the context identifying how the selected data element is used in the first set of data; and

storing the global annotation created via the first interface in an annotation store, wherein the global annotation is anchored to the selected data element.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the global annotation is anchored to the selected data element via association with a global identifier generated for the selected data object.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein identifying one or more data elements in the loaded data to which global annotations can be anchored comprises:

parsing the loaded data into parsed data elements; and

searching the registry of annotatable data elements maintained by the annotation system for matches to the parsed data elements.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein parsing the loaded data into parsed data elements comprises applying a hashing function to portions of the loaded data.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising highlighting, in the loaded data, the identified data elements to which global annotations can be anchored.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the identified data elements comprise data elements from different categories; and

the highlighting comprises highlighting data elements from different categories with different colors.

19. – 31. (Cancelled)